

Activist Archivists Meeting Minutes  
09/22/13

Attendance: Kelly, Howard, Rufus, Yvonne and Lindy (665 Broadway, conference room)

---

All: summer catch-up; what's going on with everybody? Lindy is moving back to West Coast (Rufus: Avengers West!); she will continue to administer FB page from CA.

Kelly and Marie met up with Scott Ziegler @ Radical Archives of Philly a few weeks back. They hung out at an anarchist bookstore, "The Wooden Shoe," and discussed how to better use volunteers for archiving projects.

Kelly went yesterday to finish off cataloging of film and media @ TWN (Keepers, Jersey City, NJ). She will wrap up work on database soon. JT (Takagi) is applying for a tech grant to cover preservation for TWN title, "Breaking and Entering." She is also looking into submissions for the AMIA archival screening at the upcoming 2013 conference. These include "Make-Out" and "Janie, Janie" (cinema verite/newsreel). Marie will introduce these titles if submissions are accepted. Kelly plans to incorporate Why Archive? Video into her MA thesis/portfolio.

Kelly reported on progress with Home Video Day: JT is working on collaboration with DCTV (Jan/Feb 2014?) for proposed event; Kelly met with Athena (MIAP student), who is mounting Home Movie Day 2013 in a Bushwick arts space. Rufus is strategizing tech/equipment for HVD. Athena is trying to promote "open access" for HMD.

Discussion about "Let There Be Light" (Cinema Studies-based)/inaugural fundraising for MIAP -conflict with HMD; there will be an ActArc booth @ HMD (Kelly/Marie); new printing of Why Archive? postcard (everyone throw in \$10), especially before we take off for AMIA conference; ActArcs T-shirts (Kelly to spearhead design and production via CaféPress?)!

Howard said that he has 18 students in "Intro to MIAP" class right now (including new MIAP, other NYU students, and auditors-mixed audiences); he has slotted time in for Activist Archivists to guest lecture/do presentations to the class at some point; students are reading things related to personal archiving (e.g. Kathy Marshall on personal archiving; Activist Archivist website; and archiving social movements et al (tentative date: 10/08/13); Yvonne suggested adding Terry Cook's essay on Community Archiving (Archival Science, 2012?)---assign to the class? Kelly, Marie, and Rufus to do the presentation; what to do in the presentation? Howard suggests repackaging some talking points related to the creation and genesis of Activist Archivists; Lessons Learned (Rufus' driving point); shift from Occupy ? Third World Newsreel; not displacing working archivists but more focused on empowering archival work in organizations that are challenged by

limited resources and infrastructures to maintain their archives; how long should ActArcs speak in Howard's seminar?, more formal presentations injected as way to keep things focused in the seminar; Kelly, Yvonne, Rufus and Howard: strategizing on how to best present materials on ActArcs – Rufus wants to project the future of community archiving; new directions in libraries---bridging class divisions; archives need to follow suit in this regard; rallying how libraries and archives function in the local community context ; agreement over structure of ActArc/Howard's class presentation (4 hours/ 2 hours formal presentations + 2 hours of open discussion)

Howard: ActArcs' knowledge base? communicating this to new MIAP students will be paramount, fresh, and completely new! TWN clip may be helpful here to illustrate it as a typical organization ActArcs would support etc. Kelly to draft key bullet points re: ActArcs presentation

Rufus: TWN workshop status for this Fall semester; he is submitting PhD applications in early December---after that, no worries about doing more ActArc workshops

Yvonne met w/ Interference Archive recently; she is helping to brainstorm over a preservation plan; most likely, digitization of posters and printed materials over AV materials first; getting researchers to help (offset \$\$\$) for preservation work done on materials they use/wish to use in the archive; goal to put up stuff on website for increased access; Collective Access available but no real experience using it (Kelly is skeptical of its use in a small archival context); Howard: Omeka (Mellon Foundation funded project) going through transformation to expand its reach and application.

Kelly reminds all to continue information dissemination on ActArcs; she will send reminder about archival resources spreadsheet and get input from members; fiscal sponsorship via TWN; as part of Kelly's MA portfolio---ActArcs preservation guide (30 page booklet) via DIY/zine model & aesthetics; making print version, Kindle digital copy etc. DublinCore-style language; Rufus: make command line guide (if he had time); HackKey application to easily make accurate file names.

Kelly, Rufus, and Marie will have separate meeting re: ActArcs presentation in Howard's "Intro to MIAP" seminar on 10/08/13. Invite Dan Erdman to class presentation. Rufus suggests using some bookmarking application to collect and collate resources for ActArcs---deliocious, Instantpaper, Pinterest, Evernote? Kelly to resend archival resources spreadsheet.

